feast of the Ascension, when she passed away, it seemed a new, unheard-of spiritual martyrdom, the death for which she had so often besought the Lord, for the renovation of the Church and the expiation of the sins of the world.

Two of the letters have been preserved that Barduccio wrote to Urban at her dictation at this time ; for it is clear that she was frequently prevented from speaking to him face to face. In one, she bewails the fact that the new cardinals and prelates whom he has made, far from setting an example of virtue and abnegation, are simply following in the steps of their predecessors : " who had grown old in vice, in much pride, impurity, and avarice, committing the greatest simony." Already Urban had wearied of his first reforming zeal, and there would soon be little to choose between him and the man whom Catherine deemed the Antipope ; but the Saint was never to realize this. " Pardon my presumption, most holy Father," she writes, " that I have ventured to write confidently to you, constrained by the Divine Goodness, and by the need that is manifest, and by the love I bear you. I should have come, instead of writing, but did not wish to weary you by coming so often. Have patience with me ; for I shall never cease from urging you, by prayer, and by word of mouth or letter, as long as I live, until I see in you and in Holy Church what I desire, for which I know you desire, much more than I, to give your life."[1] In the other, she exhorts him to follow the example of St. Gregory the Great and govern the Church with prudence, especially in his dealings with the Roman Republic, whose ambassadors have just received an insulting reply from the rebellious Prefect, Francesco di Vico : "I have heard, most holy Father, of the reply that the impious Prefect has made you ; verily, full of anger and of irreverence towards the Roman ambassadors. About this reply, it seems that they will call a general council, after which the heads of the Rioni and certain other good men will come to you. I beseech you, most holy Father, as you have begun, so to continue to confer often with them, and, with prudence, bind them with the bond of love. And

[1] Letter 364 (21).